



Photographer Gene Sasse

Gene Sasse's primary language is photography. In creating an image, he communicates thoughts and values with images rather than with words. The essence of his photography is grounded in creativity. By showing life and our world at different points in time and space, he strives to give the viewer a different perspective of the world as it changes, showing the seductiveness and excitement of life in front of our eyes.

He enjoys architecture. Perhaps this goes back to watching builders erect buildings where once there was nothing but empty land. The geometry of space, the utilization of light, both are fundamental to the imagery of architecture. This specialty of photography creates the opportunity to capture perspectives not just of the building, but also the people who designed, built, decorated and use a given structure.

While it might be politically correct to list mentors in photography, he is more of the typical Westerner. He likes to charge ahead, learning most effectively from actual success and failure. However, he takes into account how his clients mentor his philosophy from the businesses they built. Whenever his clients are successful in selling more products, he succeeds. His job is to produce images showing that the product or service pictured is desirable, which in turn sells more products and services.

Now approaching his 4th decade of photographing other people's visions of a better tomorrow, he is more circumspect to design his own legacy. He finds there is a need for a locally accessible museum where people of all backgrounds can join together to explore visual metaphors of life—called art.



Artfully stacked airplane parts become recycled homage to the aeronautical history of the LA basin at the entrance to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in downtown Los Angeles.

Gene Sasse

Written by **Hyun-Sook Lee** (Vergil America Reporter, Photographer)

Photographer. Author. Art curator. Through his lenses, Gene Sasse captures static moments of space and time, retelling them in the language of visual metaphors, the photographic image. He explains his approach as "each frame is the opportunity to tell the story of a specific time and place in a manner that records the value to our heritage. Each time I approach a subject, the goal is to engage the audience by way of their intellect and feeling."



In photographing architecture, every angle is considered for the potential to tell a story. The perimeter and supporting beam detail of each ceiling in this 5800 square foot Sedona home designed by Design Group Associates is reminiscent of roof construction traditional to Arizona indigenous tribal societies. Fashioned from mica shades held by hand-forged iron by 2003 MacArthur Fellowship winner Tom Joyce is reminiscent of African ladies.



When a photograph is taken can be as important as what is taken, which when this Design Group Associates creation presents a view to the ravine through dining room floor which it is suspended over, is pretty impressive. Taken just as the desert summer sky begins to soften at dusk, the layers of lighting begin to visually pop, while the terrain is still fully panoramic.



This Sedona home by Design Group Architects, founded in 1991 by Mike Bower and Max Licher, captures the essence of what the team strives to achieve in every project—a luxurious interpretation of the regional aesthetic that is equally artistic as it is respectful to the surrounding environment.



Generous high contrast black ornamentation, heavily golden gild against pristine white walls and furnished in hefty timbered pews watched over by a crucifixion. All the visual clues tell viewers this gothic church celebrates an old-world Germanic location.

A commercial photographer with a portfolio rich with 39 years of imagery, his body of work is astoundingly comprehensive. Fully operational in both traditional and new media, his roster of clients include interests in art, architecture, manufacturing and scientific products. High status publications, including American Style, Western Art and Architecture and Art and Antiques embrace his images for editorial and cover art. Awards include international acclaim for his multi-image slide show on the history of mankind, Genesis through the second coming, titled Earth, Theater of the Universe exhibited at the 1984 World Fair in New Orleans. The Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center (ABMC) of Claremont entrusted him with the historic reproduction required for continuing scholarly study of the Great Isaiah Scroll. Sam Maloof (1916-2009), the first craftsman awarded the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Fellowship for his iconic sinuously lined furniture, assigned the photographer with recording his prestigious lifetime collections.



As seen looking north through Pershing Square, with a slight of software, the Los Angeles skyline of skyscrapers is made more impressive by interspersing angled images of enlarged picture frames.

The photographer featured the woodworker as the subject of Sasse's first venture into the world of fine art book publication, *Malooof beyond 90*. Presented a copy on his 93rd birthday, the man revered as one of the most important furniture makers in American history said of the handcrafted leather-bound custom book, "This is the most beautiful book I have ever seen. It brings tears to my eyes."

While in all subject areas Sasse's images prompt emotional impact, his fine art photography is often contended to bequeath the strongest impression. Nancy Gall, photography department chairperson at Riverside City College, explains the distinction of excellence in his work as being due to his artistic excellence, "It is his fine art photography that leaves the strongest impression. It is thoughtful, subtly emotional, and captures the spirit of his subjects. His fine art photography is a visual pleasure, almost tactile."



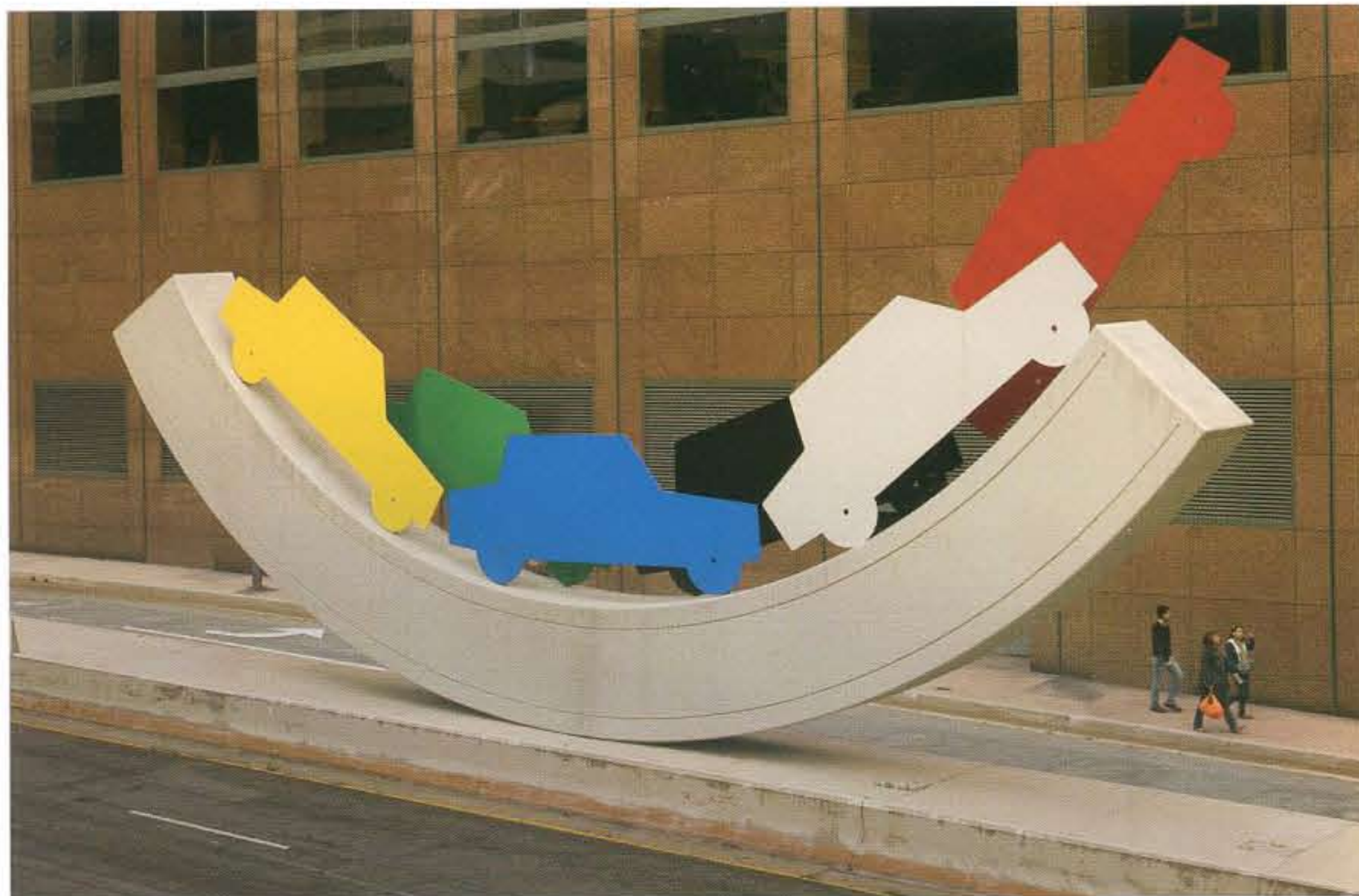
Lighting Science Group (LSG) partnered with lighting artist Michael Hayden to create wonder in architecture and art through their collaboration in a development created upon an abandoned parking lot near the California State Capitol. 194 twenty-inch square LED light tiles are arranged and programmed in an artistic abstraction replicating the ebb and flow of the American and Sacramento rivers which run through and around the city. Completed in 2008, the artwork pictured contributed to the 7-story U.S. Bank Tower constructed on the site to be named "Best New Office" by the Sacramento Business Journal in 2009.



Designed by architectural visionary Frank Gehry and acoustical engineer Yasuhisa Toyota, the Walt Disney Concert Hall was launched with a \$50 million initial contribution by Lillian Disney, as a tribute to her late husband. When completed, it became the fourth concert hall at the Los Angeles Music Center. Hailed as a triumph in design and acoustics, the project ultimately cost \$274 million upon opening in 2003.



The J Paul Getty Museum stands fortress like upon approach to a Los Angeles promontory. Once inside the main lobby, visitors are showered with sunshine through a sky- lighted study of line and space.



Saturated colors on the oversized automobile-culture sculpture pops smiles on to faces of color-deprived LA commuters. The scale of the artwork is emphasized via the visual comparison to passing pedestrians.

The lanky Southern California native, blessed with a handsome look a Hollywood agent might cast as a literary folk-hero, crafted his expertise in the commercial world, where he mastered the art of visually taking viewers on a wordless journeys. On his webpage he explains, "Change is constant in the art and business of photography, but the goal remains the same. Capture more than meets the eye, tell a story and communicate a feeling without words."

A life-long art collector, Sasse finds exhilaration in the challenge to elevate his images to equal the fine art he is often commissioned to photograph. The master photographer hints at the secret whereby his work transcends the pack of lesser images with the deceptively simple descriptor of "Blending technique with technology." Sasse expounds "Great photography transposes the beauty and spirit from a three dimensional world onto a two dimensional space, while upholding the object's aura of beauty and spirit."